

Message Text

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S E C R E T JAKARTA 12193

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ID US

SUBJ: RECENT US-GOI TALKS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. INDONESIAN OFFICIALS HERE HAVE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON RESULTS OF RECENT MILITARY TEAM VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

2. AT OCTOBER 1 MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR GENERALS MURDERED IN 1965 COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT, DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT SUCCESSFUL MISSION AND RECEPTION GIVEN TO GEN MOERDANI AND REST OF INDONESIAN TEAM. WHEN I COMMENTED THAT WE WNTED TO DO OUR BEST BUT THAT GENERAL PANGGABEAN MUST REALIZE THERE ARE LIMITATIONS ON OUR ABILITY TO HELP, HE RESPONDED THAT THE INDONESIANS UNDERSTOOD THIS AND APPRECIATED ALL THAT US HAS DONE.

3. EARLIER GENERAL MOERDANI CONFIRMED TO ME HIS OWN GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF VISIT. HE ADDED THAT HE FELT HIS MILITARY COLLEAGUES NOW UNDERSTOOD REALISTIC FRAMEWORK IN WHICH FURTHER PLANNING MUST BE MADE.

4. MOERDANI SAID THAT HE HAD REPORTED ON RESULTS OF VISIT TO PRESIDENT AND HAD STRESSED HOW IMPRESSED HE WAS WITH ATTENTION PAID TO INDONESIA'S NEEDS BY SENIOR US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. SUHARTO CHARACTERCSTICALLY HAD LITTLE COMMENT BUT WAS EVIDENTALY GREATLY INTERESTED TO HEAR MOERDANI'S

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ASSESSMENT OF THE TALKS.

5. MOERDANI HIMSELF SAID THAT ONLY SERIOUS SHORTCOMING IN OUTCOME OF WASHINGTON TALKS, IN HIS VIEW, WAS LACK OF PLANNING FOR SONIC JET CAPABILITY. HE HAD RAISED THIS WITH ME AT EARLIER MEETING, RECOGNIZING THAT INDONESIA COULD NOT CURRENTLY PURCHASE EXPENSIVE JETS BUT THAT IT SHOULD HAVE CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN JET FIGHTER PILOTS IN READINESS. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN SOME EARLY PROGRAM ADDITION OF FOUR TO SIX F-5S OR COMPARABLE AIRCRAFT FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

6. COMMENT: THERE IS EVERY INDICATION SO FAR THAT WASHINGTON VISIT ACHIEVED OUR OBJECTIVES OF SMOOTH FOLLOW ON TO CAMP DAVID. WE HERE IN MISSION DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMOWITZ, GENERAL FISH, ADMIRAL CROWE, AND OTHERS WHO OBVIOUSLY MADE SPECIAL EFFORT MAKE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO INDONESIAN MISSION. NEWSOM

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